Called to the Nations Bible College

COURSE NAME: PRINCIPLES & CHARACTERISTICS OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

AQF CODE: CTTNBC - 010

COURSE HOURS:

Teaching: 10 Research: 30 Assignments: 20 Total: 60

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COURSE OUTCOMES:

The aim of this module is to identify the Principles and Characteristics of Spiritual Leadership that is required in the church today.

- The students will identify and recognize that God establishes special types of leaders for different types of situations and events.

- Different types of leaders will be identified by researching the following biblical leaders.

    - Moses
    - Nehemiah
    - David
    - Solomon
    - Isaiah
    - Paul

METHOD OF COURSE DELIVERY:

1. The students will review the documentation in class notes entitled: **"What Makes Good Leaders?"** and the book entitled: **"The Seven Pillars of Christianity"**
2. The students will then break into small groups to research and develop a matrix of principles and characteristics of spiritual leadership from the information provided, from the scriptures relating to these identified leaders, and from other references sources.
3. The students will examine if these attributes are different in the secular world and give reasons for their findings.
4. The students will examine the 5-fold ministry template of Ephesians 4:11 and identify how these ministries to the Body of Christ are to be implemented, using the matrix identified in (2) above.
5. The students will identify if there are any contradictions between the identified matrix principles of (2) above and the implementation of the 5-fold ministry template of Ephesians 4:11 and give reasons for the contradictions.

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ASSESSMENT METHODS:

1. The students will break up into small groups and research the information identified in the Method of Course Delivery.

2. The small groups will prepare a group presentation, to be presented to the whole class, including the following points:
    1. Identifying the results of their investigations and list their principles and characteristics for spiritual leadership.

    2. Present their small group matrix on the Principles and Characteristics of Spiritual leadership and if it varies from secular leadership.

    3. The principles of the 5-fold ministry of Ephesians 4:11, and suggest how this can be implemented into the Body of Christ today.

    4. Identify any foreseen problems of implementing the principles and characteristics of spiritual leadership into the Body of Christ today.

For Online Students:

Where it says break into groups, you either do that in groups in the town/city where you live, or you have to do it all by yourself, unless you interconnect with other students on-line.

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LESSON ONE: WHAT MAKES GOOD LEADERS IN THE CHURCH TODAY?

What makes good leaders is a question, which has been travelling around the Religious Conference circuit now for nearly half a century, but still our leaders do not seem to be getting any better. Why is that?

Firstly, I think that the leaders of today have failed to recognise that one type of leader does not fit all types of situations, hence the **"one shoe fits all mentality"** is not founded on scripture. For example:

1. **Moses:**

   a. When God wanted a leader to go and face Pharaoh and demand that God's people be allowed to leave Egypt, God raised up Moses, a man raised and educated inside the Egyptian culture, a man who could read and speak like a native, and who understood the etiquette of the Pharaoh's house.

   b. Prior to sending him back to Egypt, Moses was honed and changed in the desert for 40 years, until he was ready to heed and obey the Master's call.

   c. Was Moses an enthusiastic follower of His calling? No! He made all the excuses under the sun as to why God should pick someone else – but eventually He agreed to take up the challenge and do as God commanded.

   d. Moses wandered the desert for 40 years moulding the people into a nation, ***establishing scriptural administration and a leadership structure***, within the nation of Israel.

   e. This was a very special type of leadership for a special situation and time in the life of the nation of Israel.

   f. **Moses was a special type of leader selected by God for a special task.**

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2. **Nehemiah:**

   a. When God needed the walls around Jerusalem to be rebuilt, God did not call a "Moses" type leader to undertake this task, He raised up Nehemiah – an encourager prophet to plan and encourage the people to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

   b. Here again God selected **a special kind of leader for a special type of task** within the nation of Israel.

3. **David:**

   a. When God wanted the nation of Israel to experience the golden era of peace and prosperity, God raised up a man after His own heart – David: a warrior, prophet, priest, musician, and king to the people of Israel.

   b. A "Moses" type leader or a "Nehemiah" type leader would not have been adequately equipped to do this task.

   c. God had to rise up somebody especially equipped to fit the requirements of leadership to meet all the requirements of the task set before Him.

   d. **David was a special type of leader selected by God for a special task.**

4. **Solomon:**

   a. When God wanted to build His temple, not even King David was an adequate choice.

   b. God raised up King Solomon, a man gifted with a double portion of wisdom to undertake this enormous task.

   c. Here was a man who was able to organise all types of artisans to work independently and collectively on one of the major construction projects of that period.

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d. King Solomon was one of the first Project Managers of the Bible era.

e. Here again, **God selects a special leader for a special task.**

5. Isaiah:

a. When God needed a statesman/prophet, none of the leadership types already identified was right for the task.

b. God chose Isaiah to lead and advise the nation of Israel, but also to prophecy into the distant future; events which would happen.

c. Here in 66 chapters are some of the greatest prophetic utterances of the whole Bible.

d. Isaiah was able to prophecy:

i. How the Son of God would be born

ii. What would be His role on earth

iii. What would be His ministry on earth

iv. How He would be captured

v. How He would be tried with a "kangaroo court"

vi. How He would be put to death

vii. How He would be raised up to glory

viii. Isaiah had the revelation of salvation in all its fullness, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

e. All these prophecies were made some 42 generations before Jesus was born.

f. **A very special type of leader for a very special task.**

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6. <u>Paul:</u>

a. When God needed a fearless church planter, He did not choose any of the leadership types mentioned above, ***nor did He choose and of the 12 disciples who spent 3 years with Him as apprentices, to become the 12 Apostles.***

b. No! Jesus took a man who firstly opposed Christianity.

i. He changed his life on the road to Damascus.

ii. Remoulded his theology in the Arabian Desert, in Holy Spirit Bible School.

iii. Gave him a burning desire to teach & preach the message, that the Messiah had come, the one all the Jews were anxiously waiting for.

iv. When this message was rejected by the Jews, He took the message of salvation to the Gentiles and the "Age of the Gentiles" began.

v. Through the revelation of the Holy Spirit to Apostle Paul, we have many of the Epistles of the New Testament and some of the best theology about leadership, giftings, order of service and church administration available in the Bible today.

c. **<u>A very special type of leader for a very special task.</u>**

Points to note:

1. Throughout all of Biblical history, whenever God has needed someone to plan, initiate, organise, revive or implement a "God project", **<u>He has raised up leaders</u>** to do this task.

2. As we have seen from the examples above, God selects a different type of leader for each "different type of task". ***A "one shoe fits all" mentality of leadership does not line up with scripture.***

3. It is this **SPECIAL TYPE OF LEADERSHIP** in today's church, which is going to listen to and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit.

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4. To receive a vision, or creative event, for the biblical functioning community, that God is trying to establish in a specific city, town, or nation.
5. It is that type of leadership, which is going to insist that teaching and fellowship will bring a revelation into the lives of the believers.
6. When revelation occurs within the Body, transformation can then take place in the individual and collective lives of the corporate Body of Christ.
7. It is the leadership of the Church, which will instil the importance that the Church be a "House of Prayer" [24/7] and that prayer is one of the cornerstones of our daily communication with God, not just when we are in trouble, when we want something, or for a few minutes on a Sunday morning.
8. It is this type of leadership, who recognises that teaching on the importance of the Blood of Jesus Christ, must continue in the church today.
9. It is this type of leadership, who insists that the Holy Spirit gifts are to be active and in use in the Body of Christ today.
10. It is type of leadership, which recognises the importance of the 5-fold ministries, as defined in Ephesians 4:11 and these are still needed in the Body of Christ today, so that all may be elevated to a higher level of spiritual maturity, continually approaching the likeness of Jesus Christ.
11. ***It is this God appointed leadership***, who will coordinate ministries, establish small group structures within individual churches and/or cities, and lift up the importance of worship as a lifestyle; (not just 30 minutes on a Sunday morning) and inspire the congregations under their care to reach out to people who are spiritually lost in the communities around them.

Who will do all this? Leaders that is who!

Romans 12:6-8 give a clear picture of what we all have to do as individuals in the Body of Christ.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him

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encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; ***if it is leadership , let him govern diligently;*** *if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

In churches over the last 100 years, many of our churches have not been led by leaders, but by teachers.

Leaders and teachers are two distinctly different types of giftings, and they have two completely different viewpoints, behaviour patterns, and points of emphasis.

Both have important roles in the Body of Christ, but teachers cannot lead, because they are focussing on a different agenda.

Teachers want to edify the Body of Christ, which is very important and there will be no change in the Body of Christ without gifted and dedicated teachers.

Leaders on the other hand, want to take the congregation on a mission into uncharted territory, where their faith will be tested, where their gifts will be utilised, where they will be forced "out of their comfort zones" and into active duty for the glory of God.

Teachers concentrate on Biblical studies and message preparation, but are not quick to pick up the warning signs and implement corrective steps that should take place within the church.

Programs maybe starting to deteriorate, the financial base of the church maybe starting to be eroded, or the congregations' morale could be starting to fade.

Teachers will not pick up the early signs of these events, and sometimes when it does become apparent to them (the teachers), it is almost too late to correct without major surgery.

On the other hand, people with leadership giftings walking around in the church, will have warning bells going off inside their heads. They will be continually identifying problems:

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a. We need to pay more attention to this.
b. We need to solve this problem NOW!
c. We need to get this program back on track.
d. We have to analyse why we are still doing this program this way, when it is clearly not working.
e. We have to initiate a new program and focus on something else, as the Holy Spirit leads us.

Teachers want to bring all members of the congregation to a place where they are biblically sound and not tossed back and forth by every different doctrine.

On the other hand, Leaders want to encourage the individual members of the congregation "to get involved" in the vision of where God wants to take the Church.

From these examples, we can see that God has equipped Teachers and Leaders with two different lenses, through which to view their roles and their responsibilities within the Body of Christ. Both are important – but both are distinctly different.

Whenever a person tries to minister in a position outside of his giftings he is operating in the flesh. Whenever that happens, God cannot bless the efforts, because God cannot go against His word.

In their book "Rediscovering Church" by Lynne & Bill Hybels[1] they identify 8 important points for leaders.

1. Leaders have the ability to cast a vision
2. Leaders have the ability to release people into their giftings
3. Leaders have the ability to inspire and motivate people
4. Leaders have the ability to identify the need for positive change; and then make it happen
5. Leaders establish core values
6. Leaders allocate resources effectively
7. Leaders have the ability to identify entropy[2]
8. Leaders love to create a "leadership culture"

[1] Rediscovering Church: ISBN 0-310-20408-9
[2] Entropy: (a) Lack of pattern or organization disorder; (b) The measure of the efficiency of a system.

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IN CONCLUSION: WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER?

1. He/she is a person who is continually attuned to the Holy Spirit, and in-tune with the Holy Spirit's instructions, for their own individual lives, and the lives of those people who the Holy Spirit has put under their care.
2. They have a clear vision and instructions from the Holy Spirit about their tasks, and how to go about them.
3. They have the ability to impart the vision to their congregations and to "get them actively involved in the vision, releasing individual people to utilise their God given gifts, within the vision, and the congregation.
4. They are people who consider prayer to be of utmost importance, not only for themselves, but also for the whole congregation, and actively encourage people to become "People of Prayer".
5. Leaders, are people who have the revelation that "Worship is a Lifestyle", and make sure that adequate teaching and resources are available for the congregation to actively participate in worship on a daily basis.
6. Finally, a good leader is a person who never expects his congregation to do anything that he is not prepared to do himself. ***A good leader leads by example.***

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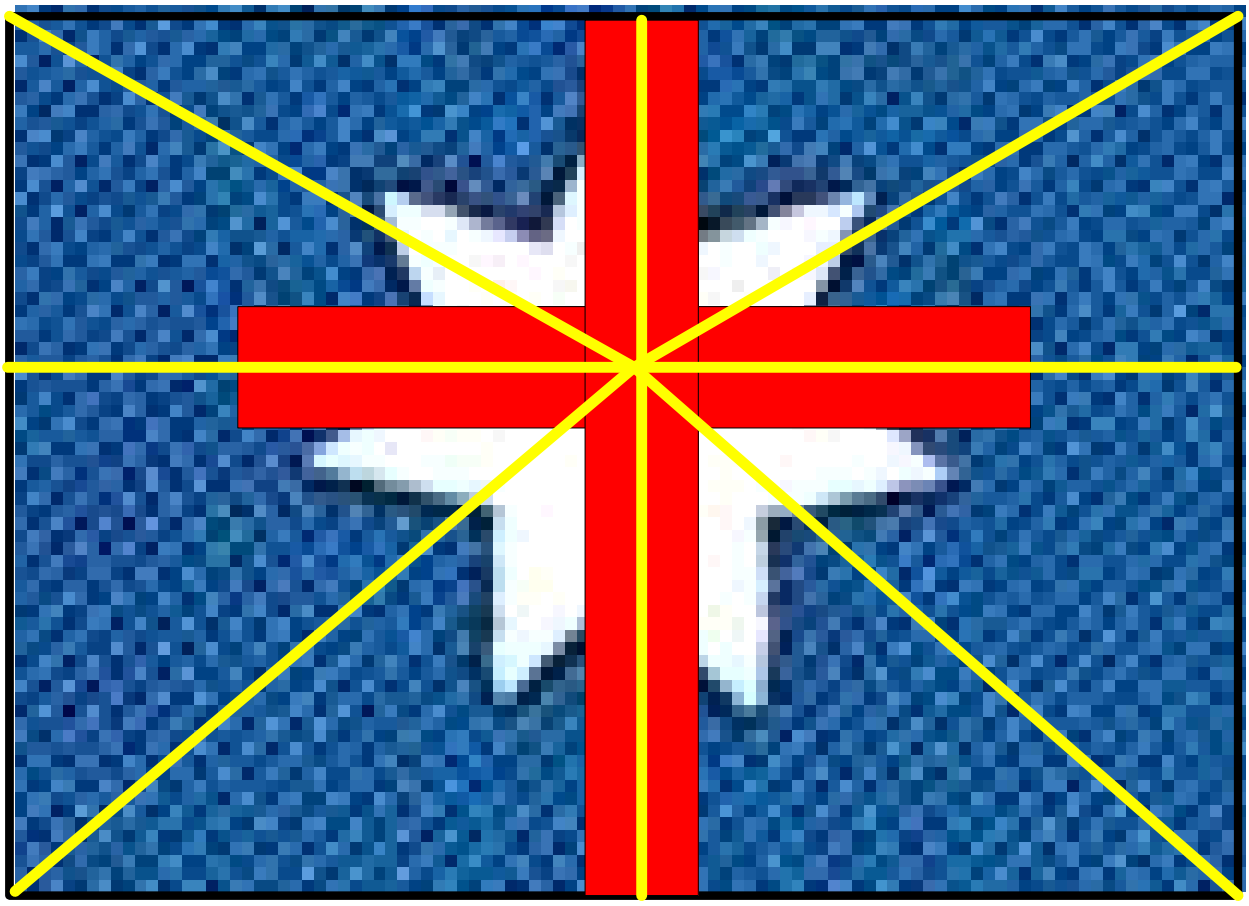

The Seven Pillars Of Christianity

By

Rev. Dr. Jeffry David Camm

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to God the Father, Jesus the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, who lifted me out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon the rock of salvation, through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Through the Divine Word, the revelation of the Holy Spirit and the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, I have been miraculously healed and blessed to travel with my wife to 43 countries to preach God's Word and to see people turn from their sinful ways and follow Jesus Christ. It is true what is written in God's precious word: *"He raises up the poor out of the dust, and he lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory;* ***for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S****, and He has set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of His saints and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces: out of the heaven shall He thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and He shall give strength unto His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed." [1 Samuel 2:8-10]*

Foreword

The rise of Islamic militancy and the continued bombardment through various forms of the media, (including parliaments around the world), against Christian ideologies, morals and values, have prompted me to write this book, as a challenge to all Christians to ***"wake up out of their sleep"!***

I believe that Jesus Christ has already sent out the invitations for the ten virgins to gather at the entrance of the house of the bride, because the bridegroom (Jesus Christ) is getting ready to come to back to earth and claim His bride.

In Eastern culture, it is an honour to be personally chosen by the bridegroom, to be one of the persons standing outside the bride's house, to

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sound the alarm of rejoicing, when the groom is first seen approaching the bride's house. The persons chosen will be personal close friends of the bridegroom.

In the case referred to above, it means that the people chosen to be the honoured ones, standing outside the Bride's house, will be very close friends of Jesus Christ Himself.

However, sadly, in the parable of the ten virgins, told by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 25, only five of these personal friends proved to be worthy to enter into the house and partake of the celebrations, to witness the marriage celebration and to have a seat at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The bride that Jesus Christ is coming back to claim, will be a perfect bride; a bride without blemish, and a bride anxiously waiting for His return.

Unfortunately, many people in the Churches today are not perfect; are not without blemish; and are not anxiously waiting for the bridegroom's return.

This is because they have lost their first love; they have become bogged down in religiosity and doctrinal double-talk. They fail to hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, calling them to get ready; nor do they recognise the signs of the times; which have been prophesied for centuries, telling us what to look out for, prior to His coming again.

The scripture clearly tells us that when Jesus returns for His bride there will be some who will be excluded from heaven (just like the five virgins) because Jesus says to them: ***"I don't know you",*** even though they will claim that they have done many things for Him, in His name.

I trust and pray that you will not be one of those that are rejected by Jesus Christ on that day!!!

Now is the chance for you to ***"wake up out of your spiritual sleep"*** *and go back to serving God with all your heart, body and soul.*

THE BRIDEGROOM COMES

The dawn is fast approaching; I can see my glorious bride
The dawn is bright and glorious; as my bride is by my side
The Marriage supper table is laid out - all on show
The angel band is playing; the Heavens are aglow
Rejoice, rejoice, let us come, and sing one and all,
Rejoice, rejoice, the writing's on the wall
Rejoice, rejoice, and let us shout in victory,
The Bride is now in Heaven; for the entire world to see.

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The Seven (7) Pillars of Christianity

*"Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out her **seven pillars**."* [Proverbs 9:1]

The number seven (7) indicated throughout the Word of God, the Holy Bible, signifies: - perfection, completeness and the imprint of God Almighty's hand upon His Word and upon all of God's creation.

Islam claims to have 5 pillars and therefore in not perfect, is not complete; and does not have the imprint of God Almighty upon its pages.

In the Book of Revelation, there are references to the "unveiling", "revealing" or "uncovering" of signs and events, which will shortly take place.

Revelation comes from the Greek word ***"akopalupis"*** *meaning* ***unveiling***, or ***uncovering***. Elsewhere in the scriptures, this same word is used and translated as: ***"manifestation"*** (Romans 8:9), ***"A coming"*** (1 Corinthians 1:7), ***"a revealing"*** (2 Thessalonians 1:7), and ***"an appearing"*** (1 Peter 1:7).

Therefore, the Bible, the Divine Word of God, is God Almighty's way of unveiling His plans and purposes for humanity to read, contemplate and understand.

The Book of Revelation is in fact history being written before it comes to pass.

As we study significant parts of God's word we will be continually challenged to review our present positions and relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and His Holy Spirit. This will be a **significant challenge** for many of us.

Notice that the first four (4) letters of the word "significant" is ***sign***. I trust that as you study this book you will be challenged to go back and study God's Word; and identify the many ***signs*** and ***wonders*** that are revealed to us through His Word and by the revelations of His Holy Spirit.

Therefore, through this divine revelation may there be a subsequent transformation within your spirits to the things of God, ***because transformation cannot occur without their first being a revelation from God***.

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FIRST PILLAR: THE DIVINE WORD OF GOD

Throughout more than 7,000 years, the Word of God has been verbally handed down from generation to generation, recorded by Moses and more than 40 other authors, throughout biblical history. In Genesis chapter 1, God reveals His divine method of creation, which has been argued by scholars since time began, but has never been disproven.

As scientists learn more and more about the universe and the molecular structures of matter, they are confirming what the Bible has been saying all along - in fact for centuries. ***Creation wasn't an accident – it didn't happen with a "big bang", because no-one can explain who was there to pull the switch to set off the explosion.*** Even if they can explain that someone was there for the "big bang", they would then have to acknowledge that it did not start with the "big bang"; it started when that "someone" came into being. The scripture clearly identifies who that "someone is".

It says: ***Before creation, before time existed, God was, and after all that we know today has passed away – God will still be; because God is eternal.***

God Almighty has set about dividing His divine program into time segments, so as to clearly identify and uncover the different facets of Jesus Christ's personality. There are many passages in the scriptures indicating that God Almighty has a divine plan for the ages:-

Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Daniel 2:31-45; 7:1-28; 9:24-27; Hosea 3:4-5; Matthew 23:37; 25:46; Acts 15:13-18; Romans 11: 13-29; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-12; Revelations 2:1-22, 31.

As indicated above, Jesus Christ is the very centre of this program [Hebrews 1:1 & 2; 9:26; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 1 Timothy 1:17]

Therefore, the ages (or time segments) are the time periods within which God Almighty is revealing His divine purposes and programs, as it centres and focuses on Jesus Christ.

God's plan is carefully laid out, for all to read and understand; but along comes satan and the Antichrist, (the opposition to Christ) to try and divert your attention away from God's plan of light, salvation and eternal joy, with Jesus Christ in heaven.

Satan wants to keep you in a place of darkness, pain and sin. Hell is such a place; a place where you are eternally separated from God.

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Before Jesus Christ returns to set up His kingdom of peace, satan will enter into a man's body and present his counterfeit [the Antichrist, as the Messiah]. This internationally deified dictator will set up a world peace program, which holds the world spell-bound for 42 months (three and a half years).

When the world rejoices, believing that Utopia has finally arrived, satan pulls the plug and the bottom falls out of everything.

In the middle period of the seven (7) years of tribulation, the Antichrist (as the ultimate deceiver) breaks all his promises and destroys his contractual obligations with Israel [Daniel 9:27 and 1 Thessalonians 5:3].

The Antichrist will arise out of a consortium of western nations (Daniel 9:26). He will be defeated when he is cast into the "lake of fire", along with the "false prophet", after Jesus Christ conquers him at the battle of Armageddon (Revelations 19:20).

The denial of Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the principle motivating force of all people and religions, who have come under the influence and domination of the evil forces of satan.

Satan's prime aim on earth is to destroy anything and everything, which gives glory and honour to God. He uses lies, deception, sickness, depression, doubt, and fear, as his main tools.

That is why here in Australia in 2010, there is a movement to try to change our Australian Flag, not because of its "historical significance", but because it clearly has many "spiritual signs" upon it, which people who oppose Jesus Christ want removed.[3]

In addition, he takes great delight in watering down the power of God's word, or causing division and disunity within the corporate Body of Christ, by the introduction of divisions (denominations) different traditions, dogmas and religious practises.

Satan is not worried that people go to church.

Satan is worried if Christians become pure, holy, and righteous and determined to follow God's word, and in unity, use God's Authority, through the power of the Holy Spirit against him.

Remember: even if you give your testimony satan has to flee!!!

[3] [See full details in the appendix].

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The latter day Body of Christ must become aware of these ploys of the enemy, and take our God-given authority and cast them aside in Jesus' name.

Born again believers are not VICTIMS – they are VICTORS!!!
Therefore, let us act like we are VICTORS – not VICTIMS !!!

SECOND PILLAR: THE OLD COVENANT – BLOOD SACRIFICES

Even before the Law was given by God to Moses, people knew they had to offer up blood sacrifices unto God. In fact, the first murder was the result of Cain getting angry because God Almighty accepted the blood sacrifice of Abel and not the grain sacrifice of Cain. The spilling of the blood of Abel put a curse upon the earth and this curse was not lifted until the blood of Jesus ran down the post of the cross into the ground, many thousands of years later.

Throughout Biblical history man has offered up blood sacrifices to God in obedience to His word – but these sacrifices did not remove the sin – it only covered it up for a given period of time.

In the book of Exodus chapter 12, verse 1, The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, in the land of Egypt saying these words: [Notice that God Almighty speaks to both of them, not just to Moses only.]

"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you."

Yes, before this time the Jews had a linear calendar long before this, because they were able to count the years of the lives of their ancestors. But God was telling Moses that this was the beginning of Israel's **spiritual calendar**; the month of Nisan. ***All spiritual events would now be counted from this date.***

God goes on to inform Moses to tell the people that in 10 days' time, each household was to purchase a sheep, 1 year old, without blemish and care for it until the 14th day, when all of the nation was to kill their sheep at the evening. (14th day of Nisan)

They shall then take the blood of the lamb and put it on their 2 side doorposts and on the upper posts above the door jambs. They shall then roast and eat the flesh of the lamb. They shall eat all of it with bitter herbs (hyssop) and what is left over they shall burn in the morning; bones and all, so that nothing is left of the sacrifice.

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God commanded the nation of Israel to eat this food in haste, with yourselves fully clothed, with shoes on your feet and with your staff in your hand. **This shall be called the Lord's Passover.**

God told Moses that during this night, the Lord Himself would pass through the land of Egypt and kill the firstborn of all mankind and the animals, in all the houses which did not display the blood on the doorposts. When God saw the blood on the doorposts He would "Passover that house" and the plague which God sets upon Egypt shall not fall upon that house.

In verse 14, God commands Moses that this shall be a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ***you shall keep it a feast by ordinance, forever.*** Then the word goes onto explain the feast and the contents of the feast and what it means, and in the Talmud it is explained "How to" conduct this feast.

Each year they prepared the house they had set the table, (with a spare chair, in case the Messiah wanted to visit them) lit the candles, and had all the food on the table before the sun went down.

They would read the scriptures as a remembrance and the youngest at the table would ask the oldest why they were having this feast? – Why was it so special? The oldest man at the table would reply and explain from the scriptures why they were holding this feast as a celebration to the Lord, for His mercy in "Passing Over" the houses of the Israelites in Egypt.

They would take the unleavened bread, and offer up prayers of thanksgiving unto God. This complete piece of bread signifying the completeness of God Almighty and they would then break it into 3 pieces.

They would take the second and third pieces, and interchange them and then take the second piece of bread and cover it up and hide it.

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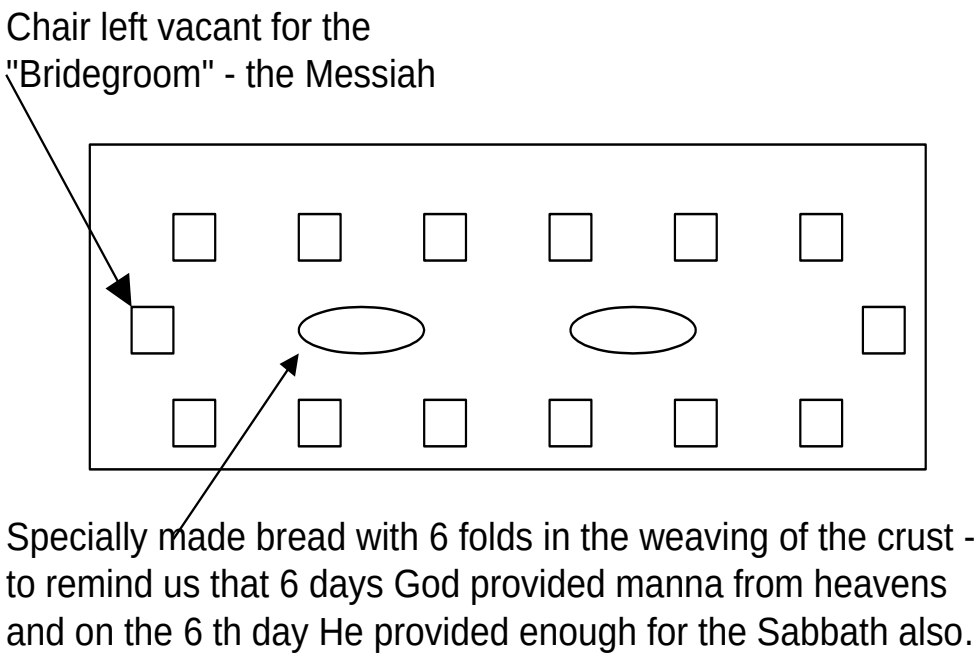

The first piece of broken bread represented God the Father. The second piece of bread represents The Messiah - Jesus Christ. The third piece of bread signifies the Holy Spirit. When they took the second piece of bread and interchanged it with the third piece, they were in fact proclaiming (by their actions) that Jesus was going to be hidden for a time, and then reappear. While he was away, the Holy Spirit would be here in His place.

The second piece of bread was covered and returned to the plate at the completion of the feast. The young child who found the hidden piece of the bread was rewarded with silver. (Remember, Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver). During the Passover Feast, there are 4 cups of wine to be drunk.

The nation of Israel had been observing this feast for over 3,500 years before Jesus Christ was born, but they still did not understand fully what they were doing, nor what the symbols really meant.

The scripture records that Jesus said: ***"I did not come to abolish the law – but I came to fulfil the law".*** Therefore, from this statement we know that Jesus must have attended at least 32 Passover Feasts before the one that is recorded in the scriptures. Even during His ministry on earth, He must have attended two other Passover Feasts, but they are not recorded in scripture – **so why is this one so important?**

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I believe that the two previous Passovers were celebrated with His **"Earthly Family"**, but this Passover was to be special because it was to be with His new **"Spiritual Family"**. **Even the way this Passover is established is special.**

In Luke 22, verse 8 – 9. Jesus commanded them to go and prepare the Passover feast. They asked Jesus "Where should they prepare it? Should it be like last year, at your mother's house, or somewhere else?"

Jesus answers in verse 10: You will see a man carrying a pitcher of water. ***This should have set alarm bells ringing in the heads of Peter & John.*** Men do not carry water pitchers in Israel – this is women's work. ***Follow this man into the house wherever he goes.***

Verse 11: The Good man of the house. "Good man" means the person who is renting the house.

Notice, that Jesus did not tell them to ask politely may they use a room to celebrate the Passover, No! Jesus commanded them to demand the room where the Master shall celebrate the Passover.

Jesus then goes on to prophecy that the man renting the house shall show them a large upper room, which they shall then make ready for the Passover Feast. Verse 13 confirms all that Jesus said, so they made ready the Passover Feast.

When I was studying at the Centre of Biblical Studies in Israel in 1995, I went with a study group to a room, which is guarded by the Israeli Ministry of Antiquities.

We were told to take off our shoes (for the place where we stand is holy ground) and we climbed the staircase into an upper room, which is said to be the room where Jesus had this Last Supper with His disciples. There we had the Passover Feast and celebrated Communion, just like I am describing it to you here today.

In verse 14, Jesus sat down, with His disciples to partake of the Passover Feast.

In verse 15, He states that He earnestly desired to celebrate this Passover with them, before He was to suffer. **Why was this Passover so special?**

Because it was to be the **LAST PASSOVER FEAST:** the fulfilment of the Old Covenant, and the beginning of the New Covenant.

Verse 16: Jesus says He will not eat **until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.**

Verse 17: And He took the cup and told them to divide it among themselves. Notice Jesus took the cup first. This is the third cup, which was used in the Passover feast.

Verse 18: I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine **until the kingdom of God shall come.**

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Verse 19: And Jesus took the bread. This is the second piece of bread that had been covered and returned to the table, which represented The Messiah - Jesus Christ in the Passover Feast. He took it, and gave thanks and then He broke it and gave it to His disciples, telling them that this second piece of bread from the Passover Feast represents His body, which is given to them. This do in remembrance of Me. Jesus was publicly declaring to His disciples that He was the Messiah.

Verse 20: Likewise, after supper He takes the fourth cup saying: This cup is the New Testament (New Covenant) in my blood, which is shed for you.

So the teaching about the Passover Feast, the significance of each of the emblems, and what Jesus commanded, has been explained to you from the scriptures. As we come now to partake of this special New Covenant Feast, let us understand what is to happen, as this communion will be slightly different to what we normally do at our communion services.

We will each come out in an orderly manner, not as part of a congregation, but as His disciples, row by row, to each break off a piece of the bread and eat it, remembering that Jesus told us that this is His body which has been broken for us (His Disciples).

We will then drink out of the chalice, remembering that this represents the shed blood of the New Covenant, which Christ has offered up for us on the cross.

Let us Pray. *Heavenly Father, we come to you today, through the blood of Jesus Christ your Son, to remember His sacrifice on the cross, in obedience to your command and to do your will. We acknowledge His resurrection and that He is now seated at your right hand in heaven, continually interceding for us. We give you thanks today Lord for the presence of your Holy Spirit in this place and in our lives. We ask that you empower us today, by your Holy Spirit, as we eat this bread and drink this juice, and that you will give each and everyone of us the boldness to step out of our comfort zones and be a witness for you in this city. We ask these things in Jesus' precious name. Amen.*

When you return to your seats, remember that when the water and blood run down from the cross onto the earth, that the curse of Cain was released, and the earth is no longer cursed by the blood of Abel when Cain murdered him. Through the body and blood of Jesus Christ, we have been set free from our sins and have been once again allowed to enter into a direct relationship with God the Father.

We have direct access into the throne room of grace and we can glorify His name with worship and praise. Let us therefore worship and praise Him today as we leave this place in victory. Amen.

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THIRD PILLAR: THE NEW COVENANT - THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

Approximately two thousand years ago, a decree was issued at the judgement seat of God Almighty, in heaven. It provided "divine legal protection" for believers against satan and his evil forces.

When Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again, the "ruler of this world" (satan,) was judged (John 16:11). Our sins and our debts were nailed to the cross of Jesus Christ and cancelled, and never to be remembered again, and principalities and powers were disarmed.

In truth, because of Jesus Christ, we have a legal right, not only to be protected from our enemy, but to triumph in victory over him as well (Colossians 2:13-15).

It does not matter what nation you came from, or the colour of your skin, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was so complete, and the judicial decision from God Almighty against satan so decisive, that divine protection has been granted; enough to cover every need known to Christians, in their daily lives. (Revelations 3:10).

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the divine lawful platform from which Christian disciples rise up to do spiritual warfare. His Word is the eternal spiritual sword we are to raise against all wickedness, and establish his victory!!!

However, we must acknowledge unfortunately that the Body of Christ has rarely walked in such victory, since the first century church. **WHY?**

At least partly, the answer is this: To attain the protection of Jesus Christ, ***we must embrace the intercession of Jesus Christ. We must become a House of Prayer.***

The Temple at the time of Jesus Christ was a place where believers could go and pray 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. But the Jewish hierarchy had polluted the temple and that is why Jesus got so upset that He started turning over the merchant's tables within the temple. And He said to them in Matthew 21:13: *"It is written, **My house will be called a house of prayer**. But you are making it **a den of thieves**!"*

If we want to have the blessings and protection of Jesus Christ, we have to get back to basics and to the Word of God and make the Church a "***House of Prayer"*** once again.

In many places in this 21st century, when you walk down the streets the churches are all locked up, and only open for a few hours on Sunday mornings. Instead of the church being a house of prayer, we have turned it

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into a memorial – a sepulchre; a place to remember the dead; not a place to rejoice for the living. It should be a place to come to give thanks to God Almighty and lift up our prayers to His holy throne room and to His holy name.

In the first century church, the church leadership was devoted to the Word of God and to prayer (Acts 2:42; 64). ***Every day, (not just on Sundays) the leaders gathered to pray and to minister to the Lord (Acts 3:1).*** **Notice, they ministered unto the Lord – not unto men.**

In this clarity of vision and simplicity of purpose, the Church of Jesus Christ never had greater power, or capacity to make true disciples. Today however, our qualification for Church leadership includes almost **everything *BUT* *devotion to God's Word and prayer.***

Leaders are expected to be organizers, counsellors and individuals with winning personalities, whose charm alone can bring people into the Church.

In Luke 18:8, Jesus challenges our modern traditions. He asks, "When the Son of Man comes, and will He find faith upon the earth?"

His question is a warning to all Christians and to all Christian leaders, who want to limit the power of God at the end of the Age of the Gentiles.

Jesus is calling us to resist the downward pull of our traditions; He is asking us, as individuals: ***"Will I find faith in You?"***

Before we respond to this challenge from Jesus Christ, let us remember that Jesus associates "faith" with "day and night prayer" (Luke 18:7). Jesus is not asking us: "Will I find correct doctrine in you?" The question from Jesus does not concern our "head knowledge" but rather it concerns the attitudes of our hearts.

What we believe is indeed important, but how we believe and put that belief into practise, is vital in securing the help of God.

Procuring the supernatural help of God is exactly the point of Jesus' parable in Luke chapter 18. His intent was to show us that "at all times, and in all situations" we ought to pray and not lose heart.

In Luke, 18:1 Jesus illustrates the type of faith He is seeking from us. He followed His admonition of the Jews with a parable in Luke 18:3 about a widow woman who petitioned a hard-hearted judge for "legal protection". Although the judge was initially unwilling to grant her petition, yet by her continual and persistent coming, she eventually gained what was legally and rightfully hers. Jesus concluded this parable with these words: "If an unrighteous judge will respond to a widow's persistence, shall not God

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avenge quickly his elect, (the people who are called by His name), who cry out to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?" Jesus answers His own question: "I tell you that He will bring about speedy justice for them" (Luke 18:1-8).

Our Heavenly Father will not "delay long" over His elect, but sometimes He will delay. God's definition of "speedily" and ours are not always the same. The Lord sometimes incorporates delays into His overall plans, because delays work trust and perseverance in us. So, crucial is perseverance and endurance to our Christian character development, that God Almighty is willing to delay important answers to prayer, so as to allow revelation, transformation and renewal to take place in us.

Therefore, we should not interpret divine delays as divine reluctance. Divine delays are tools that God uses to perfect out faith and take us to a new level in spiritual maturity. Christ is looking to find a tenacity in our faith that prevails in spite of delays and setbacks. He seeks to create a perseverance in us that outlasts the tests of time, a resolve that actually grows stronger, not weaker during delays.

When the Father sees this quality of persistence in our faith, it so touches His heart, that He grants "legal protection" to His people. **This is why Desperation produces Change; and change produces Transformation.**

It is significant that Jesus compared His elect (the Body of Christ) to a widow who is continually harassed by an enemy. This image is actually liberating if we think about it. We tend to conceptualise the heroes of the faith to be people like King David or Joshua; individuals whose successes obscure their humble beginnings.

But each of God's servants has, like the widow, a former life before salvation. Each of God's servants has a past, which is brimming with excuses and reasons to waiver from the divine path that Jesus Christ has called each of us to follow.

Let us look at the widow woman more closely: She has many legitimate reasons to quit, but instead she is determined to stick it out and by doing so she prevails. She refuses to exempt herself from her high potential (in Jesus Christ) simply by her present low estate.

She makes no apologies for her lack of finances, knowledge of the scriptures, or having any charm or attractiveness. She gives herself no reason whatever to fail, she unashamedly places her case before the judge, where she pleads for and receives what is legally hers: legal protection from her enemies. How did a common widow woman gain such strength of character? We don't know for sure, but we can imagine that there must have been a time when, under the relentless pressure of her enemies, she became desperate, and this desperation worked to her advantage.

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Desperation is God's hammer for change. It demolishes the strongholds of fear and shatters the chains of our excuses. When our desperation exceeds our fears, progress begins, and then change and transformation occurs. Today, the force that is prodding many Christians towards greater unity and prayer has not been the sweetness of fellowship; but more often it is the assault of the enemy trying to destroy us. We are now in desperate times. When it comes to touching God's heart, other than for a few essential truths, unity of desperation is more crucial that unity of doctrine, because desperation brings transformation and spiritual growth, moving us towards spiritual maturity.

We Are God's Elect: Our nation is suffering from a deep social and moral collapse, with murders, sexual abuse and suicides higher than ever before recorded. If we ever needed God's anointing on our lives it is now.

But where are God's elect? Where are the people whom Daniel says "***know their God"*** and ***"will display strength and take action"?*** (Daniel 11:32). Is there no one divinely empowered, who can go out and attack and kill the Goliaths of our age? But perhaps we are looking in the wrong places. Maybe we only need to look into our bathroom mirrors. Maybe –just maybe, you are the one God wants to use.

If you believe in Jesus Christ and are desperate for God, then you qualify as one of God's elect. ***Remember, in the parable discussed above, the widow typifies Christ's chosen ones.*** We have erroneously believed that God's chosen one (God's elect) would never be assaulted by the enemy, much less driven to desperation and "day and night" prayer.

This very desperation is often the very crucible in which the elect of God are forged and purified. Jesus portrays this characteristic, metaphorically in the picture of the widow; He reveals the means through which His elect will prevail in battle at the end of the age of the gentiles.

It is also possible that the widow referred to in the parable may well have been a corporate body of Believers; a "widow church", united in Christ in a singular, desperate prayer for protection against her enemies. Here in Australia we need the "legal protection" that a national revival provides. ***But it will not come without unceasing united prayer* !!!**

You may ask: "Where was the prayer behind the Charismatic Renewal?" The Lord revealed to me that the Charismatic Renewal was His answer to the cries of a million praying mothers; women who refused to surrender their children to sex, drugs and the devil.

It is now our turn to pray for this generation and for our children and our grandchildren's generations.

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We have to recognise that we must become the widow who cannot give herself any reason for failure; God will answer us if we cry out to Him in prayer "night and day". Therefore, let us position ourselves at His throne, on behalf of our cities and our nations. As we persevere in faith, the Lord will hear our prayers and grant us "legal protection" from our enemies.

Let us all take time out to pray, right now, for our cities and our nations.

FOURTH PILLAR:
HOLY SPIRIT REVELATION

Throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit revealed certain messages to God's appointed and anointed prophets, so that they could go and warn kings and/or nations of situations, which pleased or displeased God Almighty.

The Holy Spirit has been involved in the Bible with mankind, since Genesis chapter one. It is not a new thing of the New Testament. When Jesus was baptised it is recorded that the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and rested upon the shoulder of Jesus Christ, whilst an audible voice was heard from Heaven saying: ***"This is my beloved Son, in whom I AM well pleased."*** As it was in Genesis chapter one, so it was at the baptism of Jesus Christ: all three parts of the Trinity were present and singularly identifiable.

Later, during the ministry of Jesus Christ, He asked the disciples who they thought He was. Peter answered that He was the Messiah, the one that was foretold would come. Jesus replied that his 6 senses had not revealed this truth to him, but that this revelation had come to Him from the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit was in evidence, and many people were healed, raised from the dead, had demonic spirits removed from within them and people's hearts were turned back to God.

It was the Holy Spirit that Jesus breathed onto the 70 disciples that He sent out into the highways and the byways, who then came back to report the mighty things which had happened while they had been away. This in itself, showed that this gift was not restricted to just Jesus Christ, but was available to all people who were prepared to follow after Jesus Christ.

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It was the power of the Holy Spirit, that gave Jesus the power to be resurrected from the dead, as visual evidence to people for all generations; that Jesus had overcome satan, hell, and death, and had taken the keys of the kingdom of darkness, and that those who put their trust and faith in Him would never die spiritually, but would live with Jesus Christ eternally – that is forever.

In the last chapters of Matthew and Mark, Jesus commands the disciples to go out into all the highways and the byways (in fact to all tribes, tongues and nations) and make disciples (not believers), teaching them all that Jesus had taught to the original disciples, and He promised that He would be with us forever.

Jesus also said in Acts chapter 1 to tarry until the promised one (the Comforter) had come and that when the Comforter had come He would give you power to go and to witness, firstly in your local township, then in the next province, then the rest of your nation and finally to all of the nations of the world.[4]

Of the 500 people who are recorded as physically seeing the resurrected Jesus, only 120 were obedient and tarried for the promised one to come. Isn't it a shame for those 500 people who actually saw the risen Jesus Christ, that "seeing" was not "believing", because only 120 tarried as commanded by Jesus Christ.

It is recorded in Acts chapter 2 that when the Holy Spirit came over those in the upper room it was like tongues of fire were resting upon their heads – but they were not burning – just like Moses saw the burning bush in the desert. It was a Divine visitation into their midst. They began to speak in languages they had never learned before; not a language from within their minds, but a language from within their hearts.

There were present is Jerusalem for the festival of weeks (Shavuot) [we call it Pentecost] Jews from all the then known countries. They began to hear a message in their own language spoken to them by these "unlearned fisherman". It is reported that some thought them to be drunk – that they were babbling – but Peter stood up and made it quite clear by referring to the scriptures in Hosea 4:6 that in the last days God would pour out His Spirit upon ALL Flesh and that old men would see visions and young men would have dreams. Peter went on to chide the people: How could they be drunk, it is only 9 o'clock in the morning?

Under the power and anointing of this Holy Spirit, Peter continues to expound the scriptures with authority and without any fear of contradiction. As a result, 3,000 people gave their hearts to Jesus Christ, turned from their wicked ways and began to follow Him. Here is the power of the Holy Spirit being put into action. One man gets up and preaches and

[4] Acts 1:8

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3,000 souls come to Jesus Christ. There are two other records of similar events recorded in the scriptures.

The first is when Jonah goes and preaches to the nation of Nineveh and tells them that if they do not repent and turn from their wicked ways God Almighty will destroy their nation. It is recorded that when the King of Nineveh heard this terrible judgement upon his nation that he rent his clothes, put on sackcloth and poured ashes over his head, so that the whole nation turned back to God.

The third is a most unlikely event – the woman at the well as recorded in John chapter 4. Here was a widow woman, who had been widowed 5 times before, now living with the relatives of her last husband [not is a sinful relationship as many western theologians teach] having been acknowledged by Jesus Christ as a woman who tells the truth – [not a woman who commits sin], going to the elders of the city and saying to them that she has spoken to a man who knows all about her life [whom she suspects is the Messiah).] They return with her to the well and invites Jesus to come into their village.

Here is a woman who brings a whole village face to face with Jesus Christ. She did not go to Bible College, she does not have any "man appointed" position within the church body; No! she is a woman who fears God and wants to spread His truth to all those who live around her, so that they can share in the wonderful revelation that she has been given to her life.

If God can use a man who witnessed and supported the murder of Steven (Saul); or a woman who has been widowed 5 times (the woman at the well), or a drunken captain of a slave trader (John Newton), or a person who was a quadriplegic, who just wanted to walk again (Me)[5]; then God has promised to use any vessel, which makes itself available for His service.

The scriptures tell us that we are the temple of the "living God" and that we have living inside of us the same spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. The scriptures also tell us that greater things shall we do now that Jesus has gone to be with His Father.

Jesus was able to do mighty miracles, but only at one place and at one time. I believe that what God has done is like the miracle of the 5 loaves and 2 fishes. God through His miraculous powers of multiplication was able to feed a crowd of 5,000 men + women and children and there were 12 bags of bread left over.

Today, through that same miracle of multiplication, the Holy Spirit is able to perform many miracles simultaneously, in many different parts of

[5] Read this story in "On the Potter's Wheel" available free to download at www.cammbooks.com.au

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the world, because we have the Spirit of God living in us, wherever we are physically upon this earth.

The Holy Spirit is our edifier, our exhorter and our comforter. The Holy Spirit also reveals to us ALL TRUTH, and through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Holy Spirit, He equips us with the necessary tools to be a victorious labourer for the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians 4:11, the word of God lays out God's plan to bring the Body of Christ to a higher level of spiritual maturity." *Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others He has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special abilities in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust Him as their saviour; still others have a gift for caring for God's people, as a shepherd does his sheep; leading them and teaching them in the ways of God. Why is it that He has given us these special abilities to do these things best? It is so that God's people will be equipped to do better work for Him, building up the church, the Body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until FINALLY <u>we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Saviour, God's Son</u>, and all of us <u>become fully grown in the Lord</u> – Yes, to the point of <u>being completely filled</u> (full to the brim and overflowing) with Jesus Christ".*

God has put these scriptures into His Word for our benefit, our edification, exhortation and our comfort, but unfortunately in this 21st century, more and more churches are saying they don't want to have anything to do with the Holy Spirit giftings, especially prophetic utterances.

They are rejecting God's word and grieving the Holy Spirit. Needless to say, they wonder why their churches are lifeless, without direction and spiritually dead. These type of churches are heading back into the dark ages; a time when the Spirit of God was not able to use the mainstream churches because the church hierarchies are "man dominated" not "God directed".

This is why in the Book of Revelation, Jesus was so upset with the church of Laodicea, the spiritual church of the 20th and the 21st century; a church which thinks it is more important to have magnificent buildings and glorious salaries, than to go out into the highways and the byways and lead people the Jesus Christ.

God is coming back for His church, but it shall be a pure, holy and righteous church that He will be seeking. A church which is prepared to suffer hardship and persecution, to step out in faith to preach God's word, having no thought of their own safety, but to reach the lost at any cost. This is the type of church that Jesus proclaimed He will honour, whilst a lukewarm church He will spit out of His mouth into the lake of fire.

So the challenge, as we close the fourth pillar is this: "***Which type of church do you belong to?*** Not sure? Then please go at once and read the Book of Revelation Chapters 2 and 3, which outlines the seven church

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types which existed throughout the Age of the Gentiles. Only two of these seven church types are acceptable to Jesus Christ in their present formats. The other five church types have to have major surgery to be acceptable to Him.

FIFTH PILLAR:
DIVINE LEADERSHIP ORDER

In the fourth pillar we mentioned the divine gifts which have been given and appointed to the Body of Christ, by the Holy Spirit, not by man. They were outlined in Ephesians chapter four and are commonly referred to as the Apostolic gifts, or the 5-fold Ministry gifts to the Body of Christ.

These 5 ministry offices **are God appointed**, ***not man selected***, hence we have to recognise their appointment and why God has placed people into these offices in the New Testament Church.

In the Old Testament, God appointed the Prophet, to be His mouthpiece to the nations, both to the nation of Israel and also to the nations of the Gentiles. These people were recognised, not only by the people at large, but also by Kings and Priests.

Sometimes the people listened to what they had to say and other times they did not. When they listened to them and obeyed their warnings, the nation was blessed. When they rejected their message and tried to "kill the messenger" God's tribulations befell their nations.

Likewise it is today within the Body of Christ. God has tried and tested many of these people over a period of many years before they are raised up to a spiritually appointed office as referred to in Ephesians chapter four.

The Rise, Fall & Rise of the Apostolic Ministries in the Body of Christ

In Ephesians chapter 4, commencing at verse 10, Apostle Paul reveals some interesting revelations under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fulfil all things. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no

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more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

1. **Jesus ascended into heaven** : ***so that He might fulfil all things.***

Therefore, the giving of the Apostolic Ministries to the Body of Christ was part of that fulfilling of the commandments of His Father, so that the Body of Christ could do certain things, which are identified in the following verses of scripture.

2. ***And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;***

   a. **Who gave these to the Body of Christ**? Jesus Christ Himself – under the power of the Holy Spirit.

   b. **Notice this is a God-given office**, not a ***"man-appointed office".***

   c. As has been seen many times in the past, and the Old Testament, whenever "man" steps into a role which belongs to God, problems start to happen. So it is with the 5-fold ministry gifts referred to here.

   d. The leadership of the "denominations" in the Body of Christ, tried to restrict the impact and the use of these offices within the Body of Christ, even stating that they died out with the first generation apostles. Of course they did not read further into these verses, because if they did, they were stating that that these offices were no longer needed in the Body of Christ, because we had now all reached maturity in Christ Jesus, we were all in unity, and that there was perfection in the Body of Christ, as the bride "without blemish" which Christ is coming back to claim.

   e. Of course any blind Freddy would know that that is definitely not the case, with violence, sexual abuse, gossip and adultery all rife in the Body of Christ, some of the offences even being suppressed by church leadership, because it is too close to home to deal with effectively.

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3. ***For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.***

a. *For the perfecting of the saints*: Do we need these gifts in the church today to continue to "perfect the saints", or do we all claim to be perfect? The obvious answer is "Yes", we do still need them operating in the Body of Christ today.

b. *for the work of the ministry:* Is the work of the ministry finished on earth? No, therefore we still need them operating in the Body of Christ today.

c. *for the edifying of the body of Christ.* Is the Body of Christ fully edified today? No, therefore we still need them operating in the Body of Christ today.

4. ***Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*.**

a. *Till we all come in the unity of the faith:* Is there unity of faith in the Body of Christ in your city, your state, your country? The honest people would have to declare NO!!! therefore we still need them operating in the Body of Christ today.

b. *and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man:* Does everybody on earth know about Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as a perfect man? No, therefore we still need them operating in the Body of Christ today.

c. *unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*: Has everybody in your church reached the stature and fullness of measure in Christ? No, therefore we still need them operating in the Body of Christ today.

5. ***That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive:***

a. The fact that Paul refers to the church as children, clearly indicates that we are not mature, easily swayed by false doctrine, craftiness and the deceivers, who are in the church leadership waiting to steer people away from the truth. All very good reasons for having these offices actively working in the Body of Christ today.

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If we look at the early first & second-generation churches, they grew and become mature, even in spite of hardship, and persecution, because the 5-fold ministries were in active operation within the Body of Christ and the church leadership fully understood the reasons why they were there and from whose authority they were operating.

The rise of the Catholic Church, and the suppression of Church truth, resulted in "man" taking over the leadership role within the church. As a result, there were church splits (clearly not unity), kingdoms fought against kingdoms for power, the truth of the Bible was suppressed into a dead language (Latin) and was only able to be revealed to the congregation by so called "learned priests".

When people like Tyndale had a revelation from God to make the Bible known by translation into the "local language", the "earthly Priesthood" put out contracts to have them killed. But God is still in control Hallelujah!!! Because He could not get His message out through the established channels, they were bypassed and God Almighty raised up new channels to use to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. **With revelation comes revolution and transformation!!!**

This happened in the 17 & 1800's and then later in the 1900's and later in the 20th century. Now in the 21st century God Almighty is flexing His spiritual muscles once again.

The established churches still refuse to promote the Fruit of Spirit, for the development of the individual believer, to become a disciple, nor do they actively encourage the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit to freely operate within their churches.

They have forgotten that it is **not "their" church,** but the Church belongs to Jesus Christ, He purchased it with His blood. Until the Body of Christ, - "the church" gets the revelation that the church will not grow until, these offices are:

1. Actively recognised by the church leadership
2. Actively encouraged to work within the Body of Christ
3. Invited to participate in seminars, to reveal the plans and purposes of God to the wider body of the leadership.
4. Encouraged to teach and equip leadership within the Body of Christ for the plans and purposes of God in the 21st century.

Then unfortunately, the church will remain stagnated (like the Jews) wandering around in the wilderness for 40 years, until all that generation have died and God raises up a new generation to fulfil His divine purposes on earth before He returns to claim His perfect bride. Therefore the $64 dollar question is this: ***Which generation do you want to belong to?***

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The Rise of the Apostolic Ministry

In *The Rise, Fall and Rise of the Apostolic Ministry*, I identified that the Lord was starting to re-educate people about the reasons why the 5-fold ministries were placed into the Body of Christ. Moving on from that, let us now examine why the Lord has placed a spiritual template in place, for the leadership within the Body of Christ.

In the Old Testament, there were leaders appointed by Kings and there were leaders appointed and commissioned by God Almighty Himself. The Pharaoh was appointed by man, but Moses was appointed and commissioned by God to go back into Egypt and take the Jews out of the nation of Egypt.

When people who are called by God Almighty and commissioned by Him, are obedient to their divine calling, God moves mountains to allow them to achieve their objectives and give the glory back to God Almighty.

Without the obedience of Moses, the nation would not have been freed from the persecution, slavery and sin of the Egyptian nation of that time.

In Isaiah chapter 22 we see that Shebna had been appointed the Governor of Jerusalem by man (the king) and was building a name for himself (and corrupt riches for himself) and not giving the glory of his office to God, nor was he honouring the Lord in his actions.

In verse 15 God commands Isaiah to give Shebna a message, which was straight from the throneroom of God. ***"Who do you think you are building this beautiful sepulchre in the rock for yourself?"*** God says in this message that God allowed Shebna to be elevated to this high position, but because he had not honoured God in this position it was to be taken away from him. God tells Isaiah that God Himself will appoint somebody to replace Shebna and that person will be loyal and responsible to God – not to man.

In the early churches, God appointed people and commissioned them as apostles to go break new ground, plant churches and set the spiritual template of leadership in place.

In 1 Corinthians 12: 18 Apostle Paul writes these words: ***"But now, has God set the members everyone of them in the Body, as it pleases Him". "But now"*** refers to <u>all time</u>, the past, the present and the future. "***has God (himself) set the members – everyone on them- as it has pleased Him"***

Whereabouts in this scripture does it say that the (Pope or the Archbishop of Canterbury, or any other denominational official) sets the members in the Body. **NOWHERE!!!**

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Apostle Paul is clearly prophesying here of things to come, which are not according to God's plan and purpose for His church. Notice that it says: ***"As it pleases Him".***

If we don't follow God's template, then how can we please God? The obvious answer is that we cannot!!!

If we cannot please God, then how do we expect to reach maturity? The answer is simple – we never will – unless we repent and go back to the Word of God and do exactly what it says in His word. ***Obedience is better than sacrifice!!!***

In 1 Corinthians 12:28 Paul, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit lays out clearly the spiritual template of leadership in the Church Body.

"God has set some in the Church Body": Who has set? Not man – but God Almighty Himself. This is God's appointments and this is God's hierarchy of leadership.

"First *apostles":* These are God's appointed leaders within the Body of Christ, who have been given the authority to break new ground, plant, lead and perfect the Body of Christ.

"Secondly *prophets":* The Apostle and the prophet set up the spiritual leadership of the Body of Christ within a nation, state or region. Notice there is no mention in the Bible of denominations, [just the Body of Christ] nor is there mention of any fences in heaven [just a complete and harmonious unity].

Denominationalism is a satanic idea placed into the minds of man, to cause grief and destruction among the Body of Christ and prevent it from reaching its ultimate glory.

"Thirdly *teachers":* Teachers of the Word of God are to change ***"believers"*** into ***"disciples"*** and then move them to a place of maturity in the Body of Christ, so that the Apostle and the Prophet can ***"equip them for the work of the ministry".***

"After that, miracles": There should be people raised up in the Body of Christ who are recognised as "miracle workers" because of the fruit of their ministries.

"Then, Gifts of Healings": This is not restricted to the leadership of the Body of Christ, this is available to all who earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

"[*Then] the gift of Helps":* This is one of the most important gifts in the Body of Christ, because the gift of helps are the people who grease the wheels and keep the Body of Christ moving, on a daily basis. In many

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instances they are the unseen forces, the humblest of people, who just see a need and get in there and do it – not wanting any applause, nor recognition, but just knowing that they are doing all they can to give glory and honour to God, because they know that they are building up treasures in heaven.

"[Then] the gifts of government [administration]: Here again are people raised up and gifted by God Almighty to make sure that all the "legal issues" are taken care of; who make sure that the newsletters are compiled and published on time; that the pastors diary does not have duplicate bookings; nor that he is overloaded; but has sufficient time put aside to commune with God on a daily basis, so he/she are always in tune with God's plans and purposes for the Body of Christ.

"[and finally] diversities of tongues": Last on the list is the recognition that tongues is still part of God's plan and purpose for the Body of Christ today. It did not die out with the first generation church, nor will it die out until the Holy Spirit leaves the earth at the time of the rapture.

So for those denominations who do not allow tongues in corporate worship, you are professing just one thing – you believe that the rapture has already come – and you have been left behind!!!

So to you I say this: *Wake up out of your sleep, study the scriptures once again and earnestly pray for the Holy Spirit (which is still here in 2010 on the earth) to "lead you into all truth!!!* **So what do we do now?**

Based upon these scriptures, there is a spiritual template of leadership to be put back into place in the Body of Christ.

Here in Australia, we were given a chance to put this in place when Billy Graham first came to Australia in 1948 to preach revival, salvation and a return to God's plan and purpose for the church within Australia.

Did the religious hierarchy in 1948 listen and acknowledge this for Australia? NO; because it was a message they did not want to hear and for those who did actually hear it – it went deep down into their spirits and tormented their spirits and their consciences.

What did it mean for them? It meant that they would have to give up their "man appointed offices" and pray for God to raise up "spiritually appointed men" in their place.

This did not happen and that is why the revival of 1948 only lasted 3-4 years and died out. Billy Graham came back in 1959 to Sydney and again in 1979 and I was at both rallies. Here again Billy Graham preached salvation, revival and a return to Godly governance. Many people accepted Christ at these rallies and went on the follow Jesus Christ for the rest of their lives – but did the governance of the Body of Christ change? Unfortunately NO!!!

Three times God has sent His messenger to this nation to enlighten us from His word and to encourage His Body here in this nation to follow His

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spiritual template for governance of the Body of Christ. **Three times we have turned our backs on God's messengers and His word.**

In 1984 Leighton Ford came to Australia for a series of rallies, once again I was part of that team and spent almost a whole year preparing for that revival series and preparing the choir in Coffs Harbour for that revival.

47 churches up and down the coast, from all different denominations, studied the same book entitled: ***"In the Spirit of Love"*** and miraculously came up with the same spiritual answers. There was a level of unity in the Body of Christ which had never been experienced before. People were invited to go and attend services in other churches. Pastors were encouraged to open their pulpits to priests and pastors from other denominations and to preach from the Word of God. Guess what?

IT WAS FOUND THAT WE ALL BELIEVED IN THE SAME JESUS CHRIST. HE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR ALL OF US!!!

Churches who has never heard about the gift of tongues began to experience them in their own churches. Healings and miracles were in abundance. The Body of Christ became alive!!!

In 10 days of crusades in Coffs Harbour alone, more than 1100 people made decisions for Jesus Christ. This was an opportunity for the Body of Christ, right across Australia to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the revelation of His Word and to implement His placement of persons of the 5-fold ministries within the Body of Christ.

Unfortunately, for the fourth time, the Body of Christ in Australia rejected His Word and the unity which was experienced prior to, and during the crusades faded away.

Now in 2010, some 25 years later, the Body of Christ has another opportunity to re-examine God's word, hear His distinct voice through the scriptures, listen to the Holy Spirit, who has promised to ***"lead us into ALL TRUTH".*** This is an opportunity to set in place the correct leadership template within the Body of Christ, for each region, each state and for the nation. **God is not looking for a glorious denomination**.

God is looking for a united Body of Christ, without barriers, without fences, all worshipping to the same words, to the same music, because they are all of the same spirit – **in one accord**. God is not looking for quantity. ***God is looking for quality and maturity within the Body of Christ***.

In Hebrews chapter 6: verses 1 & 2 the writer clearly tells us that we have to put aside "childish ideas" (the milk of the Word) and move on to a more mature understanding of God's word – (the "meat" of the Word).

Verse 3: **BUT** – we will not move on unless God allows it to take place. God has to give us permission to become more mature, by the evidence in our faith and our actions as disciples, within the Body of Christ.

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If we don't pass the test, we will continually remain in "spiritual kindergarten." Whose fault will that be? ***The leadership in place in the church today!!!*** Remember: **God's word says quite clearly that God judges those in leadership and authority more harshly than God judges others.** So to the leadership in the Churches in Toowoomba, the rest of Queensland, and the rest of Australia, I ask this very pointed question:-

"How are you going to give an account of yourselves before the Master about keeping the Body of Christ as "spiritual kindergarten students" – instead of leading them to a higher level of maturity in Christ Jesus, so that they can receive all the promises and blessings of the scripture which should be available to them"?

Now you may want to kill me for what I have written. OK, but that will not change the fact that I am quoting God's word and you really have to deal with Him - not me. He is the author and the finisher of His word. It is to Him that you (and I) are to be held accountable. The choice and the challenge is now up to you. What are you going to do about it???

Sixth Pillar: Unity in the Body

Many of us could quote the saying, which says *"where there is unity, God commands a blessing".* Many of us would even say that this is a scripture, which comes from the Bible.

However, if you do a search using a concordance for the word "unity" in the N.I.V. translation, there are only seven (7) references in the whole bible of this word and none of them refer to the saying mentioned above.

It is so easy these days to fall into satan's trap and develop a truism from what is not true, from the LOGOS word (the written word) of God.

The first reference to "Unity" in the scriptures is recorded in 2 Chronicles 30:12; which says: *"Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them **unity of mind** to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the Lord".* [NIV]

In other translations, this is referred to as ***"all one heart"***. *"At the same time, God's hand was on the people in the land of Judah, giving them **all one heart** to obey the orders of the king and his officials, who were following the word of the LORD"* [KJV translation]

When you study this scripture, we find that "unity" is not mentioned as a word at all in the original Hebrew texts: [Logos – written word].

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However, the "Rhema" or spiritual significance of this word is evident in the explanations given to the actual words in this text. The term "one" of "one heart" is shown below.

H259 אֶחָד ʼechâd *ekh-awd'* A numeral from H258; properly ***united***, that is, *one*; or (as an ordinal) *first:*—a, alike, alone, altogether, and, any (-thing), apiece, a certain [dai-] ly, each (one), + eleven, every, few, first, + highway, a man, once, one, only, other, some, together.

So we see that to be "**united**" or "**in unity**" means to be "**of one heart**", or "**of one purpose**", having the "**same direction**", having the "**same goals**", having the same "**love for one another**".

The early records in the Old Testament clearly show that when the nation of Israel were of "**one heart**" then God moved miraculously in their midst. A prime example is when Joshua told the army of Israel to march around the city of Jericho for 7 days without making any sound, just blowing on the trumpets at his command - and giving out a great shout – the shout of breakthrough.

When this happened, God intervened and the walls of Jericho fell down. These walls did not fall inwards because of the shout; they fell outwards, clearly showing that God broke down the walls of Jericho – not mankind.

In a similar incident in the New Testament, it is recorded in Acts that they were all together with "**one accord**".

*"These all continued with **one accord** in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."*[Acts 1:14]

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with **one accord** in one place"* [Acts 2:1]

*"And they, continuing daily with **one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.* [Acts 2:46-47]

*"And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with **one accord** and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:"* [Acts 4:24]

"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common". [Acts 4:32]

"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch." [Acts 5:12]

*"Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with **one accord**."* [Acts 7:57]

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So when we look at just a few scriptures referring to "one accord" what do we identify from these scriptures.

Reference	Words	Actions
Acts 1:14	One accord	In prayer and in supplications
Acts 2:1	One accord	In one place
Acts 2: 46-47	One accord	*in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*
Acts 4:24	One accord	*"And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord*
Acts 4:32	One heart, & One soul	*"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul*
Acts 5:12	One accord	"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch."

If you look carefully at these references you will see that there is a definite result from God when people are in **"one accord".** We see that when they were all in one accord, they were:

- In prayer and supplication,
- In the temple: (daily) – ***not just on Sundays***!
- Breaking bread (Holy Communion) from house to house,
- With singleness of heart,
- Praising God with gladness,
- Having favour with all the people,
- The Lord added to the church daily, all that should be saved.
- They lifted up their voices to God,
- The multitude believed with one heart and one soul,

These are the attributes, that the Holy Spirit has responded to in the Body of Christ, when that Body is in "one accord" that is "In Unity".

I think that we still need these attributes working in the church today, so that people can receive the maximum blessings from God

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So what is wrong in the churches today? Many go to church for the wrong reasons. They go because they:

- Have to; their parents make them go
- Their friends do (peer pressure)
- To check out the beautiful girls – definitely the wrong reason!
- To be seen in the music team, or as a guest speaker; to get secular approval.
- Because you believe that is the right thing to do on Sundays
- The music is good
- To get free tea or coffee.

None of those things are relating to the things, which allowed God, the Holy Spirit to move mightily on the first generation church in the Book of Acts. If we want the Holy Spirit to move mightily in the Body of Christ today, just as it did back in the first generation churches, then we have to get back to the basics, which were effective in the first generation churches, that is: ***Unity of Purpose.***

As I have stated already, the first generation churches met daily, the apostles and church leaders prayed and ministered to God daily and there were elders appointed to look after the congregation and their needs.

It was the elders who were called to go and lay hands upon the sick (James chapter 5) not the pastors.

As defined already in Ephesians chapter 4, the Apostles and Prophets (to the Body of Christ) are God's "appointed people" to God's "appointed offices", and are responsible to God Himself, for breaking new ground, hearing from God and making these things known to the congregations (the Body of Christ).

In association with the God "appointed teachers", they are to build up the Body of Christ, until it reaches a level of maturity defined by God Almighty in His word. Unfortunately, some churches nowadays, do not want the 5-fold ministries and offices to be anywhere near "their churches". They want to "keep control of their churches", they don't want the Holy Spirit to come in and start to interfere with ***what they have been doing for God***.

It is unfortunate that I have to make these comments in this 21st century, when we have so much knowledge available to us from the scriptures. With the Bible being printed in our own languages, many different reference books and concordances available to us for references; look up tables and maps on our computers, to show us many things from the scriptures, etc. However, the one thing we have failed to do is learn this simple lesson: **OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE.**

If we are disobedient to God's Word then God is handcuffed and cannot help us. He will not go against His word. Unless we go back to the

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First Generation Church Model, with the 5-fold ministries clearly being in operation within the Body of Christ, then there will be no opportunity for the Body of Christ to reach maturity.

Yes, some small parts may reach maturity; but that is not what the word says: **IT IS WRITTEN:** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

It is clear from the scriptures why these offices are God appointed to the Body of Christ, so that the Body can become:

- Perfected saints
- Be equipped for the work of the ministry
- To edify the Body of Christ
- We all come into the Unity of the faith
- With the complete knowledge and understanding of the Son of God
- So that all disciples can become perfect in God's sight
- That we all take on the measure and stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ
- That we no longer be like children in our understanding of the ways of God
- That we are no longer carried away by every wind of doctrine, which seems to be good. (That we live by faith – not by feelings)
- That we don't become sidelined by cunning or deceptive members within the Body of Christ.
- That we speak the truth in love at all times (***here is a warning for all politicians***)
- Grow up into the headship of Jesus Christ
- That the whole Body of Christ becomes neatly fitted together, into the Body of Christ, according to God's design – not man's interpretation, or man's design

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- That each portion of the Body of Christ pulls its weight, according to the skills and powers given to it by the Holy Spirit.
- This is so that the Body of Christ is perfect, without blemish, ready and anxiously waiting for the Lord's return, to collect His Bride.

Many people in western society do not understand the significance of the betrothal ceremony in the Eastern Culture marriage. If they did, they would understand that when we accepted Jesus Christ as our personal saviour, we became betrothed to Him – in fact in a sense, we are engaged to Him. At some appointed time in the future there will be a wedding, and if we are deemed acceptable, we will be part of the Bride which Christ comes back to claim for Himself.

To some, this maybe a surprise thinking that, they could be excluded from the wedding feast. The scriptures are very clear; Jesus Himself told His disciples; that on the appointed day, there would be many whom He does not recognise. He will tell them to leave, because He does not know them. He will explain that: *"when I was sick, you did not care for me, when I hungry, you did not give me food to eat; when I was in prison, you did not come to see me".* They will ask perplexed "Lord, when did we see You sick? When did we see You hungry? When did we see You in prison?" Jesus will answer: "*When you did not do it to these the least of My people, you did not do it unto Me. Go away from Me, I do not know you".*

It is clear; Jesus recognised that at the judgement time, there would be people from within the church body who will not be allowed to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, because they did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, or a "love relationship" with the Body of Christ

I am saddened that over the years I hear less and less sermons coming from pulpits out of the Book of Revelations, especially when it is the only book of the Bible, which promises the pastors a blessing if they preach from this book.

Rev: 1:3 says: *If you read this prophecy to the church, you will receive a special blessing from the Lord. Those who listen to it being read and do what it says will also be blessed. For the time is near when all these things will come true.*

I am surprised that pastors do not want to receive blessings from God. I am also surprised that pastors would be so selfish as to refuse to allow God to bless their congregations also, because if pastors do not read this word from the Book of Revelation, then their congregation cannot hear it, nor obey it and hence God cannot bless them.

Isn't it about time we put aside our foolish pride and just went back to the Word of God and do what it says? Then and only then can God move

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amongst us. 2 Chronicles 7:14-16 is a classic opportunity to show this point.

THEN*, if my people will humble themselves and pray and search for me, (seek my face) and turn from their wicked ways****, [THEN]*** *I will hear them from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land. I will listen, wide awake, to every prayer made in this place. For I have chosen this Temple and sanctified it to be my home forever; my eyes and my heart shall always be here.*

What can we learn from this scripture, bearing in mind what we have just been discussing about the Book of Revelation?

- ***If my people…*** We claim to belong to Christ; we claim to be Christian, therefore **we are His people** and so this Old Testament scripture is expressly talking about us, right here in the New Testament.
- This is not talking about SOME of the PEOPLE, but it is referring to ALL OF THE PEOPLE. **UNITY OF PURPOSE, ONE HEART AND ONE MIND.**
- Whose responsibility is it to teach the congregation this truth and lead them by example into this position? The Leadership of the Body of Christ. If you are in leadership, then this means YOU!!!
- ***Will humble themselves****…* [The scripture tells us that pride comes before a fall, but those that humble themselves before God, He Himself will raise up.
- ***And pray.***
- ***And seek My face****.* The first generation church was a praying church, a church which continually was seeking after God's face. Because of that fact, the Holy Spirit added to the church daily.
- ***THEN:*** This statement by God is conditional. If we do as He has commanded us, then (and only then) will God hear our prayers from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land. In other words: ***If WE don't, then GOD won't.***

Don't you think it is about time we had people preaching these simple truths from every pulpit across this nation, so that we could get back to God and God can get back to us? Because if we don't - He won't!

God cannot bless any nation that does not obey His word, because God cannot go against His own word. If we want God to pour out His unlimited blessings upon us, then we must be prepared to honour and obey His word in everything we say and do.

It seems so simple, but we have not got our head around this truth in the last 200 years in this nation. The nation of Israel wandered around in the desert for 40 years to complete a journey which would have only taken 11 days, if they had only believed and obeyed God's word.

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Do you want to be part of the generation who dies wandering around in the desert for 40 years, or do you want to be the generation which obeys God, takes possession of the land and lives in victory? Only time (and future history) will tell.

SEVENTH PILLAR: ETERNAL FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

Throughout the whole of the scriptures, there is the promise of eternal fellowship with God once again. That is what all the Old Testament prophets were telling the people and it is what was confirmed by John the Baptist, Jesus, His disciples and all the books of the New Testament.

Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins, His resurrection from the dead, as proof of His power over sin and death, and His ascension back to heaven, and His position at the right hand of God the Father, continually interceding for His people, all this confirms the promises of the scriptures. This confirms that we are once again able to come into His eternal presence, firstly while we are here on earth, and then once the rapture occurs with Him in heaven.

How can we have eternal fellowship with Christ here on earth? Well there are some basic scriptural teachings that we have to look at:

1. If you believe that you are born again and have been filled with the Holy Spirit, then Jesus lives in you; you have the possibility of a God-relationship with Christ every day, when you make the effort to acknowledge His presence in your life.
2. When we worship the Lord, we have the right in the scriptures to go directly into the throneroom of grace, because the curtain outside the Holy of Holies has been forever split, and we have direct access into the heavenlees, right up to the foot of the throne itself.
3. When we are in this place, we have the same rights and privileges as all other saints who have gone there before us. What a glorious promise this is. We can join in with the 24 elders and all the angels crying out in worship: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come". "Worthy is the Lamb who sits upon the throne".
4. We have the right whilst being here on earth to do great and mighty things for God's kingdom, because the Holy Spirit lives and dwells within us.
5. This is the same Holy Spirit that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead.
6. Jesus Himself said that greater things would we do because He goes to be with His Father.

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7. This means that we can heal the sick, we can raise the dead, we can make people who are now blind, able to see once again.
8. We can have direct prayer access to God, 24/7 not just for an hour on Sundays.
9. Our lives should become a life of worship. In fact we have to get the revelation that ***"worship is a lifestyle"*** and we should be doing it every day – in fact 24/7.

APPENDIX: 1

THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF OUR AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

There has been many comments lately about removing the "Union Jack" from our national flag – but most Australians do not know how this flag is made up – nor its Spiritual significance.

The challenge for Christians in Australia today is to realise that there is a war going on right here in our nation. It is a war for the hearts and minds of our children and our grandchildren. If we do not want our children to grow up in an Islamic nation, then please read the following appendix carefully.

1. THE COMPOSITION OF OUR FLAG

Righteousness, exalts a nation.

[Psalm 60:4]: "***Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth".***

The cornerstone of Australia's heritage is based upon the Bible and Christian truths, which are symbolised in our flag.

[Psalm 20:5]*: "In the name of our God we will set up our banners".*

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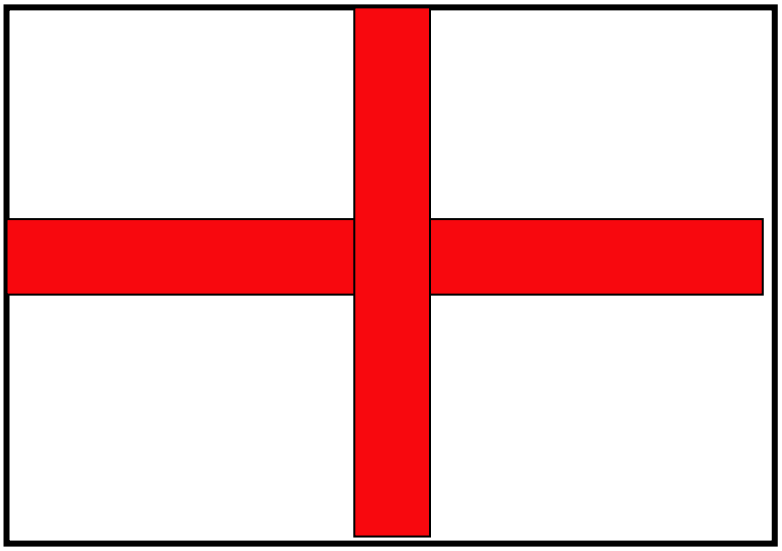
A nation's heart is in its flag. The flag is made up of several pieces – but most Australians have no idea of their spiritual significance. So let us look carefully at how our flag is made up and let us get the revelation about what our flag really means to this nation.



It is a visual reminder that we are a covenant people, first under law, and now under grace. The Red Cross on a white background is the ancient Hebrew Flag used by King David. It clearly defines our link to Christ – the line of David, the root of Jesse, which will have no end.

In modern times, it is referred to as the Cross of St. George. This was the flag of England, from the time of the Romans in approximately 100AD, right up until 1606 and used by the Crusade knights, from all Christian nations in Europe, as they marched across Europe to claim back Jerusalem from the Turkish Muslim Empire.

2. The Flags of Scotland and Wales are added in 1606

This is represented by the cross of St. Andrew.
This is the same year that Capt. Janzoon in the Dufkyen, mapped 300 miles of the Queensland coastline and Capt. Ferdinand De Quiros claimed this southern region for Jesus Christ, as the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit.

It was this flag (the Flag of England, Scotland, & Wales) which was raised up at Sydney Cove on 26th January 1788 [Not the Union Jack], which

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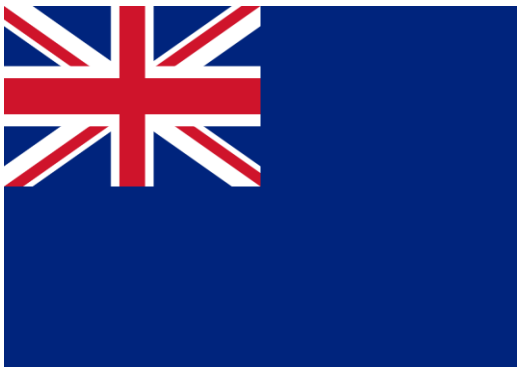
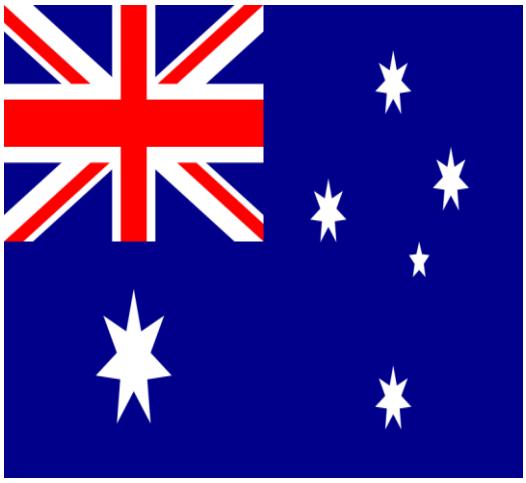
people incorrectly state today, because the Union Jack was not created until 1806, some 18 years later, when the flag of Ireland was added.[6]

3. The Flag of Ireland is added in 1806, to create what we call the Union Jack today.



The small red-lined cross inserted into the white cross of St. Andrew, represents the cross of St. Patrick of Ireland. This was added after the British invaded Ireland and secured half of the country and added it to the British Isles.

4. The Australian Flag at Federation in 1901



This national flag was selected by a competition in 1900, just as the design for the Opera House was selected by an international competition in the 1950's. That is what makes our flag so special; there was democracy in operation in selecting our national flag.
As a result, the Australian flag belongs to the people, not to the Queen, or to the Parliament. It belongs to the people and it cannot be changed, unless the people vote in a referendum for it to be changed.

The flag at Federation (1901) **had a six-pointed star**, representing the six states, which were part of the referendum to vote on federation. It was later changed to **a seven-pointed star**, to include the two territories.

[6] For confirmation, please look at the picture in the NSW parliament foyer of the House of Representatives, which correctly shows the flag being raised up at Sydney Cove on the 26th January 1788.

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The Union Jack on our flag, as already explained, contains the following crosses. The cross of St. George; the cross of St. Andrew, and the cross of St. Patrick.

These three crosses also represent the three covenants that God gave through Abraham, Moses, and Jesus Christ.

The stars on the Australian flag represent the Southern Cross – our geographic location, and Federation. They were placed into the heavens by God at creation, as a reminder to all nations that He has His hands protecting this nation. Five (5) of the six (6) stars have seven (7) sides. Scripturally, the number "7" means perfection and completeness.

The Southern Cross also represents the Cross of Christ. The four (4) stars which have seven (7) points represent the places where the blood run from the head, hands and feet of Jesus Christ upon the cross. The 5-pointed star, represent the place where Jesus' body was pierced by the lance, and the blood flowed forth.

5. The Colours in our Flag.

- The three colours of "Red", "White", and "Blue" were used in the tabernacle in the wilderness for the curtains, according to God's specifications.
- The "white" linen represents the white robes of righteousness, given by the Lord to His people.
- "Red" signifies the blood covenant fulfilled by Jesus Christ, and the sacrifices of our troops in many conflicts to keep our country safe.
- "Blue" is the national colour of (Ancient) Israel, and of God's right to rule over humanity.
- For more information: read Numbers 15:36-41. [Numbers 15: 36-41: Israel was instructed to wear a "ribbon of blue" as a remembrance to keep God's commandments and to be holy throughout the generations.]

6. God's Signature is on our Flag

The Lord said: ***"I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last".*** This is recorded in the Book of Revelation. These are the first and the last letters in the Greek alphabet, in which the New Testament was recorded.

However, Jesus would have spoken to Apostle John in either Hebrew, or Galilean Aramaic (His native tongue). In the Ancient Hebrew, the first

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letter of the alphabet was Aleph [x] and the last letter was Tau [+][7]. **When placed upon each other, you have the Union Jack. This clearly says: I, Jesus, the First, and the Last, have put my signature upon your flag.**

The three crosses also signify the three covenants of Abraham, Moses and Christ, that God made with Israel.

7. The Genius of God

What a wonderful fulfilment, that a flag consisting of the symbols of an invisible hand would be displayed in these latter days, before His return, as a reminder of His covenant with His people. Whether the people embrace Him or reject Him, our heritage is God-given and our flag is the history of God's plan for us.

To reject our flag and the Union Jack is nothing more than the rejection of God's name. It reflects our state of heart, our intentions to rebel against His divine plans for us as a nation.

To replace it with pagan symbols (trees, kangaroos, etc.) is rebellion against God Himself. To turn our backs on our God-given heritage is inviting fatal consequences. This is proven, time and time again in the scriptures when Israel turned its back upon God, or God's laws. It is an honour to have these divine symbols on our flag. How thankful our chosen nation should be. We should never allow these symbols of God's protection to be removed from our national flag.

I believe that God has put the 5-pointed star upon our flag as a warning to the nation of Australia.

If we, as a nation, do not uphold the Christian laws and values, upon which this country was established, then God Almighty will allow satan (symbolised by a 5-pointed star) to rise up in this nation and his agents will take over this nation for Islam.

The Muslims have already stated that they plan to take over this nation of Australia by 2050 and make it an Islamic nation. When this happens, then we will have a new flag flying over this nation. It will not be created by a democratic referendum, or a democratic competition. It will be green in colour, it will have a 5-pointed star upon it (the symbol of Islam) and it will have a moon on it as well (shaped like a boomerang, to appease the aborigines), because Islam worships a false light, signified by the moon, not the real light, which is symbolised by the sun.

[7] For proof please check out Psalm 119, where each of the stanzas of this Psalm start with the letters of the Hebrew Alphabet.

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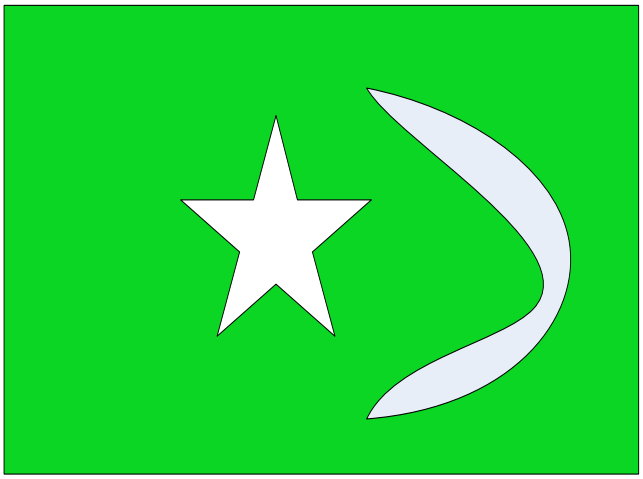
If this prophecy comes to pass, there will be nobody to blame for this catastrophe except the Christians of this nation who, because of their complacency, disunity and just "laid back indifference" to what is going on in the spiritual realm, sat back as the "silent majority" and did nothing, expecting that "She'll be right mate", "no worries", "everything's OK".



Because of our lack of caring after God, He will turn His back upon us, withdraw His divine protection and like is recorded in the Book of Job, allow satan to have his way with this nation.

As is written in 2 Chronicles 7:14: *"If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways;* ***THEN*** *I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land".*

The scripture is very clear: ***If we DON'T! then, He WON'T!!!*** As I have stated in my introduction in this book, "It is now high time for the Christians to wake up out of their sleep, for if they don't they shall have to an account as to why they allowed this nation to fall into Satan's hands.

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